

**FREE**  
The Five Billion  
**Issue #36**  
**Oct. 4 - 17**  
Circulation 1800

Toronto's Anarchist Bi-Weekly  
**Ecomedia**  
**BULLETIN**

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Spray Resisters picketing offices of Forestry Co-op

**"We fought it to the end"**

## **Spray Goes Ahead**

On September 9, police and forestry officials descended on a month-old blockade of a spraysite in Tatamagouche, Nova Scotia (see Ecomedia #32). Area residents were occupying the site to prevent proposed toxic herbicide spraying.

At 5:45 a.m., the policed attacked the camp and arrested three of the members for mischief after eggs and sticks were thrown at their cars. The three arrested were then driven away from the site, and released after being held for an hour and a half. Upon their release, the three wimmin returned to

the spray site and attacked the supervisors' car with rocks while he was in it. The three were charged with assault, assault and destruction to property respectively. *(cont'd on pg 2)*

## **Pot-Luck Politics Party**

On October 16th there's going to be a potluck dinner, meeting / get-together for all Toronto area anarchists, to meet other people, talk, eat, and share news. It will be a chance for people to get involved in new projects or to find people who might be interested in helping you with an idea. The event is free, if you want to get involved or just have a good time, please come out to the Purple Institution, 42 Gladstone Av. (one block north of Queen). It will start around 4pm and dinner should be 6ish. For more info call the Anarchist Hotline 536 2514

## **DIRECT ACTION**

### **No Bridge Across the Babine!**

The indigenous peoples of the Gitksan-Wet'suwet'en Territories of Northern British Columbia have had to resort to a road blockade to save their land.

The Northern Gitksan Territory is the last area where the resources are still beneficial to the people. It is not yet affected by clear-cut logging practises

The Westar company is building a bridge at Sam Greene Creek to access these Northern Territories. The bridge-link will enable other interest groups to clear-cut, extract resources, that will alter and destroy the land forever.

The Gitksan-Wet'suwet'en people believe (and rightly so) that the clear-cutting will destroy their land by:

- eliminating their sacred sites and historical landmarks.
- the death of wildlife through loss of habitat
- completely destroying ancient trapping grounds

*(cont'd on page 2)*

# Spray Goes Ahead

(cont'd from 1)

While busily protecting the rights of the logging and spray companies by arresting the wimmin, the cops missed an opportunity to protect the rights of the residents of the area. The spraying company broke two of the regulations concerning spraying, with the help of the police. First, they sprayed when winds were over ten km an hour, and second they failed to notify people within .5 kilometrers of the spray area that spraying was to happen. Spray supervisor Randy Fulton said local residents weren't notified because the company didn't want any more protesters at the site. This crime carries a maximum fine of \$10,000. But—surprise, surprise—no charges have been laid against the company.

Meanwhile, the three wimmin appeared in court on September 21, where they pleaded guilty to all charges. Instead of trying to fight a "legal" battle, one of the three, Judy Davis, simply released a statement, part of which read:

"My actions speak for themselves,

and I will not deny or defend them in a court that I feel is already prejudices against me by the evident class structure of the system. Lack of charges against the Co-op for spraying violations proves again that there is one law for the rich and powerful, and one for the rest of us.

"Residents living near spray sites must defend themselves against

spray assaults. Struggles against herbicide spraying and other environmental abuses will be forced to become more militant each year as the public realizes that there are no legitimate means of challenging government departments who will not fulfill their mandates."

The blockade received widespread public support in the form of letters, phone calls and food donations. The three face sentencing on November 2.

# Still Not Safe

A controversial plan to do the impossible—evacuate 14 million people from Long Island, New York in the event of a disaster at the Shoreham Nuclear Power Plant—has been approved by the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) in the USA. The area includes New York City's most populous boroughs, Brooklyn and Queens. As all commutes know, a typical rush-hour trip from Nassau

County to New York City can take three hours, and from Suffolk County on the Easternmost end of the island, anywhere from 5 to 6 hours. People are to evacuate the island through one of six bridges (two from Brooklyn to tiny Manhattan Island, two from Queens to Manhattan and two from Queens to the Bronx.) As people who tried to commute during the transit strike will tell you, it's virtually impossible to get into Manhattan with greater than usual traffic. A nuclear accident at Shoreham would not only send a cloud over Connecticut, Jersey, Philadelphia, New York, Boston and Rhode Island, it would mean forced exposure to millions who would be trapped on the island.

Most residents opposed the plant in the first place. Shoreham, built by Lilco (Long Island Lighting Company), has never opened due to public opinion, and evacuation plans have been turned down for six years. Lilco loses millions every year on the plant, which it passes on to its customers in the form of higher electric bills. FEMA is best known for its efforts to house the homeless in concentration camps.

# No Bridge

(cont'd from 1)

- chemically polluting medicine plants and berries
- creating uncontrolled flooding of fishing sites and spawning grounds
- massive erosion of the land
- Pollution of the air by slash burning, which also contributes to the destruction of the ozone layer
- destruction of the last Grizzley Bear habitats

The Gitksan-Wet'suwet'en people have been trying to prevent this encroachment on their land for some time, including a court battle, all of this has amounted to a big heap of nothing and so they have resorted to direct action and like the peoples of the Temagami region in Ontario are blockading the road. They are calling for help from native and non-native peoples, and although we can't do that much directly for them from toronto, the best way to help is to defend indigenous struggles in our own area. If you really want to get in touch with them they can be reached at the office of the Gitksan & Wet'suwet'en Chiefs and the number is 604-842-6511.

# Fun Fun Fun in Berlin !

You will probably have already heard about the IMF's (International Monetary Fund's) annual general meeting that took place in West Berlin this weekend, with the world's foremost capitalists crying crocodile tears about protecting the environment, while agreeing to finance Brazil's final assault on its rainforest.

You will probably also have heard about the demonstration on Sunday, in which at least 60,000 people took part and marched against the IMF and its policies, but what you haven't heard about are the demonstrations that have taken place since then. So sit right down and get ready for an Ecomedia exclusive.

The other demonstrations began after Sunday's massive demo was over, with 2,000 to 3,000 people taking the streets for themselves, smashing windows and generally giving the riot cops a hard time. Later that evening, 1,000 to 2,000 people met for a drumming circle, after which they planned to head to the Opera House to confront the IMF's bigwigs, who were being entertained there. Before they could leave, they were surrounded by riot police, who refused to let them leave until the opera was out.

Monday started out with 300 wimmin meeting outside the wimmin's prison for a demonstration. This was followed by 2,000 to 3,000 members of Germany's autonomous community, as well as people from around the world, gathering outside of Pan Am's office. The protesters had chosen Pan Am because it is the airline that the German Government uses to extradite

people, as well as one whose cutlery is all made by prison (slave) labour.

The demonstrators were prevented from reaching the building by a wall of 1,000 riot cops. Realising that they wouldn't achieve much there, the demonstrators headed off to the opera house, where they smashed windows, overturned cars and pelted riot Kops with eggs. At this point, there were approximately

50 people arrested. From the opera house they headed off to a porn store which they promptly trashed, with another fifty people arrested there. There were 106 confirmed arrests, and no major injuries.

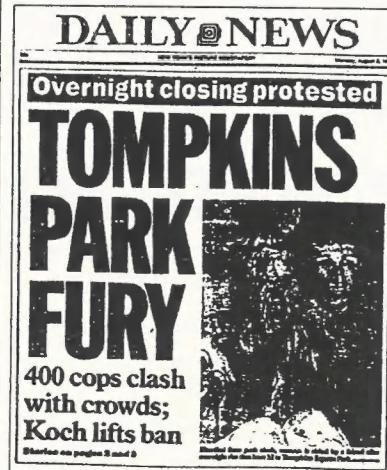
On Tuesday the demonstrations continued, and Ecomedia's correspondent received a badly broken leg trying to escape police. No further details were available at press time.

## ... and in New York

Another fullscale police riot has occurred in the USA, this time directed against hundreds of local residents who gathered in Tompkins Square Park to protest imposition of a 1 a.m. curfew on the park. Tompkins is in the middle of an area on Manhattan's lower east side which has long been home to the poor, homeless, starving artists, squatters,

immigrants and the like. The noise bothered recent yuppie invaders (who came to the neighbourhood because it was lively in the first place) who live in co-ops and \$2,000 a month apartments. Their complaints resulted in the curfew (Washington Square Park, a few blocks to the west, already has a curfew and many protestors have been arrested.)

On the night of August 7, protestors gathered and the police began to indiscriminately brutalize both protestors and bystanders, including two reporters. The high-spirited and committed resistance of the protestors, who regrouped repeatedly to fight back against police despite the brutality they encountered, is evidence of the committed resistance of local people against the destruction of their community. Their battle is a last stand of poor minorities against the gentrification which in other Manhattan neighbourhoods has meant expensive



(cont'd on page 4)

## **Are you going to San Francisco?**

As decided by the 1988 anarchist gathering participants in Toronto, next year's gathering will be held in San Francisco, bringing the festivities to the west coast for the first time. The organizing group is taking a new approach in a number of ways: a concentrated effort is being made to make it a truly international gathering, with extensive mailings going out all over the planet, and the gathering itself will be more evenly focused between culture and politics. The best news is that plans are for a week long event!

The name/theme for 1989 in S.F. is "Without Borders; Anarchist Conference and Festival, '89." From their recently printed survey soliciting ideas and opinions from participants, they say: "We in S.F. are interested in expanding the international scope of these gatherings, building on the effective aspects of other gatherings, and averting or at least mitigating the failures in order to make this one fulfilling for all participants." Copies of the survey are available from Ecomedia, or directly from S.F. Contact: Without Borders, c/o 1369 Haight St., San Francisco, CA 94117, or call them at 415-431-8355.

## **The Right loses again**

As reported in the Toronto dailies 23-9-88, the city's neighbourhoods committee has decided to be rational and not close down the 519 Church St. Community Centre, where the anarchist gathering workshops were held, or change any bylaws to refuse use to anarchists or any others whose ideas they might wish to repress. Seems the local reactionary politicians don't have the support they thought they had, with alderman Paul Christie sulking "I can't help but think there was a short-sighted decision made (not to enact a bylaw banning anarchist organizations from using city-funded community centres.) Special thanks and appreciation go out to Kyle Rae, executive director of the 519, and all of the 519 Board for their unrelenting support of the right of various communities, including the anarchist, to use this space.

## **M E D I A      W A T C H**

### **But what about Ben Johnson?**

Which was more pathetic—the pro-Johnson hysteria in the press September 24 or the anti-Johnson hysteria on the 27th? One day he was entitled to fame, adulation and over \$2 million in endorsement contracts because he could run quickly; the next he was a bum because he'd supposedly used a steroid in order to do it. These ridiculous excesses of media hero-worship are obviously designed to deflect our attention from the real social issues and the roles that real people—not media-created superbeings—can play in combatting them.

## **New York (cont'd)**

homes for the wealthy, massive profits for real estate developers and homelessness for the poor and lower class. Some buildings have been squatted, and others spraypainted with slogans.

Many people photographed and filmed the event, and the tapes clearly show a police instigated riot; most of the cops covered or removed their badges before proceeding to beat up demonstrators. As a result of this evidence, the police commissioner admitted the fault of the police and is conducting an investigation. Over 100 charges of police brutality have been filed, and several of the officers involved have already been reassigned to Queens (Help!)

Mayor Koch, already known for his indifference to the plight of the poor, reacted to the whole situation by declaring a war on drugs centered around the park. (Report from Laure, our New York correspondent.)

## **Hugs and Kisses**

Lots of thanks go out to everyone who has helped us with our shortage of cash. We've had several large donations (thanks especially Ecomedia Vancouver) and many smaller ones, all of which help us out incredibly. What we really need now is people who want to support us on a regular basis, ie donate regularly. If you can afford to do this, please help us keep a community paper running. Also feel free to make suggestions as to how we can improve Ecomedia. All donations and letters should be sent to the address on the front.